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## "Excess Profits Tax Is Indirect Tax of the Most Insidious Kind."

By L. F. LOREK, New York State Chamber of Commerce.



The effect of excess profit taxes on business enterprises and on the high cost of living is so evident as to require little explanation. We have the word of former Secretary Glas that this tax encourages "wasteful expenditures, puts a premium on overcapitalization and a penalty on brains, energy and enterprise, discourages new ventures and confirms old ventures in their monopolies." What further need be said in condemnation?

It may be appropriate, however, to indicate the fact that as the commodity or raw material passes from the planter, or grower, or producer to the manufacturer, the jobber, the wholesaler and retailer, each process of distribution witnesses an addition to the cost at each stage of progress, of an indeterminate amount not sufficient in the estimate of each intermediary to cover his excess profits tax and that all of these increases are included in the price paid by the consumer for the finished product.

These added costs have no legitimate relation to original cost. As an example of one of these costs, the head of an important manufacturing enterprise has recently stated that his corporation paid in one year to the federal government taxes in a sum more than double the nominal profits retained by the company, more than five times the sum distributed in dividends to the investors whose capital it utilized, and nearly two-thirds the total amount distributed to the workers by way of wages, and this may be considered typical.

The excess profits tax is an indirect tax of the most insidious kind. The laborer, the clerk, those dependent on small incomes from investment, and all whose earnings are less than the exemption allowed under the law, are not taxed under the law. Few of them realize that they are taxed at all. This entire class, however, as well as others with larger incomes, pays a heavy toll each day for the necessities of life and would, if it realized the fact, be among the strongest advocates of excess profits tax repeal.

It follows naturally that to the extent excess profits are assessed, our export tax is penalized. The products of the manufacturer and of the farmer cannot so readily be sold abroad in competition with those of other countries if their prices are inflated under operation of an excess profits tax. Markets secured during the war are in danger of being lost to the American exporter through the effect of the excess profits taxes.

## Prevent Decay of Teeth by Teaching Children to Keep Mouths Clean.

By DR. A. D. BLACK, Northwestern University Dental School.

Definite and practical plans for instructing children in the technique of caring for the teeth have been worked out during the last six years, particularly in Bridgeport, Conn., where ten-year-olds are engaged in the education of 20,000 children in the public and parochial schools in the problems of mouth hygiene. During the five years ending January 27, 1919, this service had reduced the number of retarded children (those who were required to take a year over) in the eighth grades of the grammar school fifty per cent.

The cost of re-educating these children equaled 12 per cent of the entire budget in 1919, and was reduced to 17 per cent in 1918. During this same period, and apparently as a result of this service, communicable diseases were wonderfully reduced. The figures for diphtheria were changed from 35 per cent to 18 per cent, for measles from 20 per cent to 4 per cent, for scarlet fever from 14.1 per cent to 0.5 per cent. There is good reason to believe that the establishment of this school of dental hygiene is the beginning of an educational campaign which will be far-reaching in the improvement of the health of the nation. Teeth are preserved; healthier bodies and minds are developed; good of constitutional diseases is prevented. Could there be a finer public service?

Chicago has over 300,000 children in the grade schools. A few years ago members of the Chicago Dental Society examined the mouths of about 80,000 children and found fifty per cent in need of dental service. It is impracticable to supply dental service to adequately meet this demand. The record of the dental hygienists in the Bridgeport schools has, however, pointed out a thoroughly practical solution which is a much more rational method—that of preventing decay by teaching the children to keep their mouths clean. It seems so certain that this service will soon come to be a part of the training of the children in our public schools that the establishment of a school for the training of young hygienists is likely to be an important factor in the furtherance of the general child welfare movement.

## Bureau of War Risk Insurance Faces Its Big Task With Confidence.

By COL. R. G. CHOLEMEYER-JONES, Director.

It is not to be denied that ex-service men and women dealing with the bureau have had just reason to criticize and to complain by reason of the bureau's apparent neglect to respond promptly and accurately to all communications addressed to it.

Any ex-service men or women who are members of any local post of the American Legion, Veterans of the World War, or any ex-service man's or woman's organization and who themselves may have been responsible

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WORK A SPECIALTY

VOL. XXXIII. NO. 26.

## NEW HOPE FOR THE SUFF CAUSE

The Referendum Is Not Necessary in Tennessee

PERSON FILES AN OPINION

Assistant Attorney General Bases His Conclusion Largely On Decision Of United States Supreme Court In Ohio Case.

Washington.—Assistant Attorney General Bessie B. Smith, who has been assigned to the Tennessee case, has filed an opinion, given orally in writing, both to Governor Roberts and the attorney general of Tennessee, that the Tennessee referendum amendment without subjecting the issue to the people is unconstitutional.

Mr. Smith's opinion, given orally and in writing, both to Governor Roberts and the attorney general of Tennessee, was based largely on the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Ohio referendum case.

The problem of the people is to decide whether or not to ratify the amendment without subjecting the issue to the people.

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## 1,350,000 GERMANS KILLED IN WAR.

Geneva.—Recent statistics published in Germany on that country's war losses state that 1,350,000 men were killed. There are today 520,000 war widows, according to the statistics, 1,150,000 war orphans and 500,000 maimed or consumptive, supported mostly by charity.

## ALIEN HUNT TO GO ON UNDER NEW LAWS

Washington.—The Supreme Council of the Allies after holding a three-hour session, adjourned to meet at Brussels July 2, leaving most of the questions on the agenda regarding the Alien Hunt to go on under the new laws.

## ABETTING ALSO PROSCRIBED

White Wholesaler Raids Are Not Expected Soon, Greater Number Of Arrests And Prosecution Is Certain To Come.

Washington.—Recent amendment of the Immigration and Alien Deportation laws will increase the scope of the activities of the Department of Justice in hunting down and expelling "Reds" and others of radical leanings, although the department is not contemplating at this time another series of spectacular raids.

It was explained at the department that reports of wholesale raids in prospect were somewhat exaggerated, but that, nevertheless, the hunt of radicals is to proceed with renewed vigor under the broadened statutes and proportionately larger numbers of arrests will be possible from time to time.

The principal amendment which adds to the deportation activities of the Department of Justice is that which makes persons who contribute money to radical movements parties to the anti-Government methods which such contributions encourage.

Under this amendment to the law, a person not actively affiliated with such an organization becomes a part of it if he lends assistance of value for the spread of its propaganda.

This section of the new law reads: "The giving, loaning or promising of money or anything of value to be used in the advising, advocacy or teaching of any doctrine above enumerated shall constitute the advising, advocacy or teaching of such doctrine."

The new law also provides that any person who contributes money or anything of value to any organization, association, society or group which has as its purpose the overthrow of the Government of the United States shall be deemed to be a party to such organization, association, society or group.

Another point decided by the Boulogne conference, the correspondent says, is that a special section of the Tennessee Legislature be called to act on the Federal suffrage amendment. The Legislature will be called to meet on July 1, before the Spa conference and the date for which remains fixed for July 5.

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## NEW PLAN TO USE FORCE ON GERMANY

Note Sent to Berlin by the Supreme Council

MANY QUESTIONS UNDECIDED

No Agreement Yet As To The Division Among The Allied Nations Of The German Indemnity.

Boulogne.—The Supreme Council of the Allies after holding a three-hour session, adjourned to meet at Brussels July 2, leaving most of the questions on the agenda regarding the Alien Hunt to go on under the new laws.

The Turkish question is considered to have been settled by the council's approval of military action against the Turkish Nationalists as planned by Marshal Foch and Field Marshal Wilson, and by the decision that the Turks must sign the treaty as it was prepared at the San Remo conference.

The Russian question came up, but was left undecided. It was agreed, pending further consideration, that the economic negotiations between the French and British delegates and the Soviet representatives should continue, but that implying any sense recognition of the Soviet government.

The communiqué of the council members of the Spa conference, which has been called to reach definite agreements "before the Spa meeting," it is understood that the date of the Spa conference remains July 5, as previously fixed.

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